



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## THIRTY-FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Panama City, Panama, 26 to 30 April 2010

### REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

1. The statutes of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) list its functions as advising FAO on the formulation of forestry policies and reviewing and coordinating their implementation at regional level; exchanging information and, through ad hoc subsidiary bodies, generally advising on the most suitable methods and measures for technical problems; and making appropriate recommendations on the above.
2. Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations whose territories are totally or partially situated in the Latin America region, as defined by the Organization, or that are responsible for the international relations of one of the non-autonomous territories of the Region. Applicants need to meet these conditions and should notify their interest to the Director-General of the Organization.
3. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission held its 25<sup>th</sup> Session from 29 September to 3 October 2008 in Quito, Ecuador, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Ecuador. The session was attended by delegates from 24 member countries and representatives of 38 organizations, including agencies of the United Nations system, and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers.
4. A summary of the recommendations and requests of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of LACFC is given in paragraphs 5 to 12.

#### For the attention of the FAO Forestry Department

5. The Commission underlined with deep concern the devastating impact of recent hurricanes in Cuba and Haiti. The Commission expressed its solidarity with those countries as they had been seriously affected by the events which had caused social, economic and environmental emergencies, and recommended that the governments of the Region and that FAO provide maximum support to the two countries to mitigate the negative effects and to permit the restoration of forest cover and the rebuilding of appropriate living conditions for affected communities.

6. The Commission stressed that deforestation had a complex matrix of causes that included sectoral, economic and social interests that needed to be addressed beyond the forest sector. The Commission therefore recommended that COFO<sup>1</sup> look into ways of providing broader support to countries in their efforts to reverse the loss of forest cover and forest degradation.
7. The Commission requested that FAO provide greater support in facilitating dialogue between countries to identify new mechanisms that would enhance valuation, in the national accounts, of environmental goods and services generated by forest activities.
8. Some delegates expressed their concern about mechanisms that could be established to support countries in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, in the sense that these could be difficult to access and thus cause frustration, as in the case of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for forest projects. In view of this, the Commission requested that FAO contribute to discussions to open simple routes to such mechanisms and to facilitate the access of countries to new resources made available by donor countries to finance the REDD<sup>2</sup>.
9. The Commission requested that FAO set up a training programme on topics relating to sustainable forest management and its relationship with climate change.
10. Commending the presentation of the theme, the Commission asked that FAO, in collaboration with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), help the countries of the Region by facilitating access to funding for their forest programmes.
11. The Commission listened with interest to the conclusions and recommendations of the IV CONFLAT<sup>3</sup> and recommended that closer links be established between LACFC and CONFLAT, along the lines of those existing between the FAO Forestry Department and the World Forestry Congress.

#### **For the attention of Governments**

12. The Commission urged Governments and, in particular, ministries responsible for forest programmes, to bear in mind the content of the report of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of LACFC when implementing their forest policies and programmes, in accordance with national considerations, needs and capacities.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO Committee on Forestry

<sup>2</sup> REDD, *United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries*.

<sup>3</sup> IV Latin American Forestry Congress (Mérida, Venezuela, 2-5 April 2008).